

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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STATE OF MONTANA

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DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Wastewater Collection Upgrade – Phase 2
Fall 2021
City of Plentywood
48.462741, -104.333425
Sheridan County, Montana

Existing Environmental Review Document: Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Categorical Exclusion

Type and Purpose of Action

The City of Plentywood proposes to upgrade its aging wastewater collection infrastructure. In 2016, Plentywood hired Pro Pipe Services to clean and video 48,380 linear feet of sewer mains. Approximately 8,000 linear feet of sewer mains and manholes are being upgraded now (Phase 1) and this application is to help fund to upgrade approximately 8,540 lineal feet of sewer main and related manholes (Phase 2). The project is located near 48.462741, -104.333425 in Plentywood, Sheridan County, Montana.

This sewer main upgrade benefits renewable resources by reducing surface water inflows and ground water infiltration in the improved areas and will reduce wastewater outflows due to broken clay tile pipe and leaking joints into the groundwater in other areas. Flow monitoring indicates that as much as 40% of the wastewater entering the lagoon is from groundwater.

Reducing the inflows from groundwater will have a direct positive affect on the lift station by reducing the number of pump starts and pump run times. This will reduce electricity demand (conservation of natural resources) and increase the life of the pumps. Reducing the inflows will also reduce the possibility of needing to enlarge the lagoons to accommodate the inflows and infiltration, thus saving construction energy and costs.

The groundwater contamination from the failing sewer mains has the potential to affect the environment and health of many people in Plentywood and the surrounding area. This wastewater improvement project should improve the environment and health of the people in Plentywood and the surrounding area.

The project proponent has already been in construction since Fall 2021.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC will approve the grant and loan to provide funding for the City of Plentywood Wastewater Collection Upgrade – Phase 2 Project.

Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Prepared By:	Name: Demitra Blythe Date: 11/2/2021 Title: DNRC CARD Division MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Email: Demitra.Blythe@mt.gov
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature:	DocuSigned By: <i>Mark W Bostrom</i> Date: 11/2/2021 10:09:58 AM MDT <small>BFT7A1C50B2AF4DE...</small>



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA
SRF PROJECT#: C302254

PLENTYWOOD WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 2

December 2, 2019

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project. The City of Plentywood has identified, through cleaning and video inspections, the need to rehabilitate/replace portions of its wastewater collection system. Much of the collection system consists of clay tile (and some concrete pipe) which was installed in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s and is showing signs of wear and even failure at some locations. Deficiencies in these mains include offset joints, root intrusions, sagging pipes, service tap intrusions, and cracks in the pipes, which will only worsen over time as the pipe continues to deteriorate with age. In addition to structural failure, which can result in sewage backups, these deficiencies also allow groundwater to infiltrate into the collection mains. Flow monitoring has shown that the collection system experiences groundwater infiltration in the range of 65,000 gallons per day in the winter to 120,000 gallons per day in the spring/summer, nearly doubling the amount of wastewater that should be entering the lagoons, based on population. These elevated flows also increase pumping costs at the lift station and utilize treatment capacity at the lagoons, which can negatively impact treatment. The problems are widespread, so the City has decided to complete the project in two phases to maximize grant funding, thereby making the overall project more affordable for its residents. The first phase was completed in spring 2019. The proposed phase 2 project will consist of the replacement of 6,500 linear feet (LF) of sewer main; the replacement of 42 manholes; the rehabilitation of 12,000 LF of sewer main using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP); and the rehabilitation of 50 manholes. This project also consists of the replacement of all controls, equipment, and pumps in the City's lift station, as well as replacement of approximately 1,300 linear feet of 6" force main.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a new or modified application is submitted, or new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated.

The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
1520 East Sixth Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Randy Rice, Mayor
City of Plentywood
205 W 1st Ave.
Plentywood, Montana 59254
Phone (406) 765-1700

Sincerely,



Kevin B. Smith, Bureau Chief
Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality



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ENGINEERING**
Professionals you need, people you trust.

Prepared By: Interstate Engineering, Inc.
2177 Lincoln Ave. SE, Sidney, Montana 59270
SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS - PH 2
OCTOBER 2019

**CITY OF
PLENTYWOOD
MONTANA**

- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED BASEMENT LOCATIONS
 - EXISTING SEWER MAIN
 - OPEN-CUT REPLACEMENT
 - CURED-IN-PLACE PIPE RENOVATION
 - JACK-AND-BORE INSTALLATION

